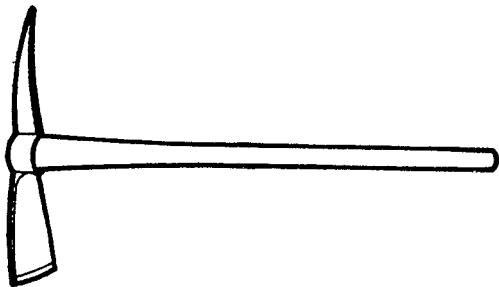


Chapter 43 MATTOCKS

HOW TO CHOOSE AND USE THEM

The “Types and Uses” section provides you with a list of some of the types of mattocks. These pages should help you select the right mattock to do the job.

The “Using” section tells you how to use the mattock to perform the desired function. The “Care” procedures tell you how to care for the item.



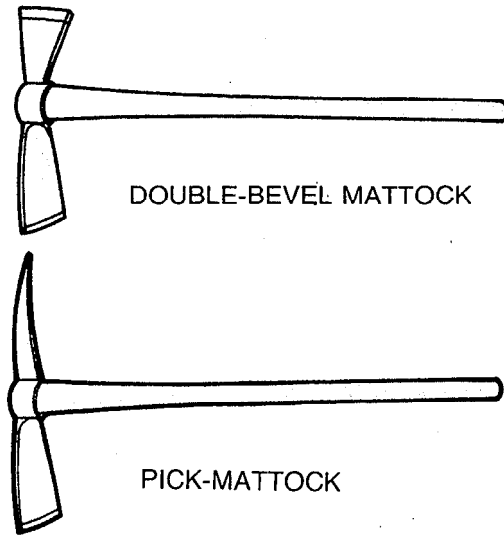
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TYPES AND USES

SINGLE-BEVEL AND DOUBLE-BEVEL

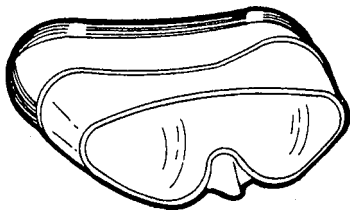
The mattock is designed for digging and cutting operations. The mattock can have a single or double-beveled head. However, the single-beveled mattock can be combined with other digging tools to perform a variety of functions. For example, the "pick-mattock" is a combination of the single-beveled mattock and pick.



SAFETY

1. When using a mattock, it is important to have a firm footing and correct posture to prevent the mattock from glancing and striking the feet or legs if the mark is missed.
2. Do not swing a mattock until you are sure that no one will be endangered by the swing, a possible loose head, or glancing of the tool.

USING THE MATTOCK



WARNING
WEAR EYE PROTECTION.

Distribute body weight equally on both feet. The knees should be set but not tense. The feet should be spread apart at a comfortable distance. The body should be relaxed and free to swing and bend from the hips.



USING THE MATTOCK - Continued

- 2 When practicing using the mattock, swing with either the right or the left hand leading. When your position becomes tiring, reverse your hands on the handle of the mattock.
- 3 With the right hand leading, the left foot should be brought slightly toward the work. To start the swing, hold the handle at the end with the left hand and near the center with the right hand. Raise the mattock over the right shoulder. Swing the mattock down toward the work, allowing the right hand to slide back along the handle toward the left hand so that at the finish of the swing, the hands are close together.
- 4 With the left hand in the center of the handle, the mattock is swung in the same manner, except that the positions are reversed.
- 5 Light swings are accomplished with wrist motion only, allowing the head of the mattock to do the work.
- 6 Use the wrists, forearms, and shoulders for heavy swings.



CAUTION

Slight prying may be done with the mattock. However, this must be done cautiously to prevent breaking the wood handle.

CARE OF MATTOCKS

1. Clean the mattock thoroughly after use and before short or long-term storage.
2. Store the mattock so that the head will not be struck against metal or other hard surfaces. The mattock should be placed on its head against a wall or hung on a rack for storage. Coat the head with oil.
3. For long-term storage, coat the head with a rust-preventive compound and store in a dry place in a rack or box with the cutting edges protected.

WARNING

CLOTHS USED TO APPLY OR REMOVE LINSEED OIL ARE FIRE HAZARDS BECAUSE THEY MAY IGNITE BY SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION. THESE CLOTHS SHOULD BE EITHER DESTROYED AFTER USE OR HUNG UP TO DRY IN A WELL-VENTILATED PLACE AND STORED IN METAL CONTAINERS.

4. The raw wood handles of mattocks should be rubbed thoroughly (preferably prior to use) with a cloth soaked in boiled linseed oil. This will prevent drying, checking, and moisture penetration.

